

Delta Plan Five-Year Review Staff Findings and Recommendations

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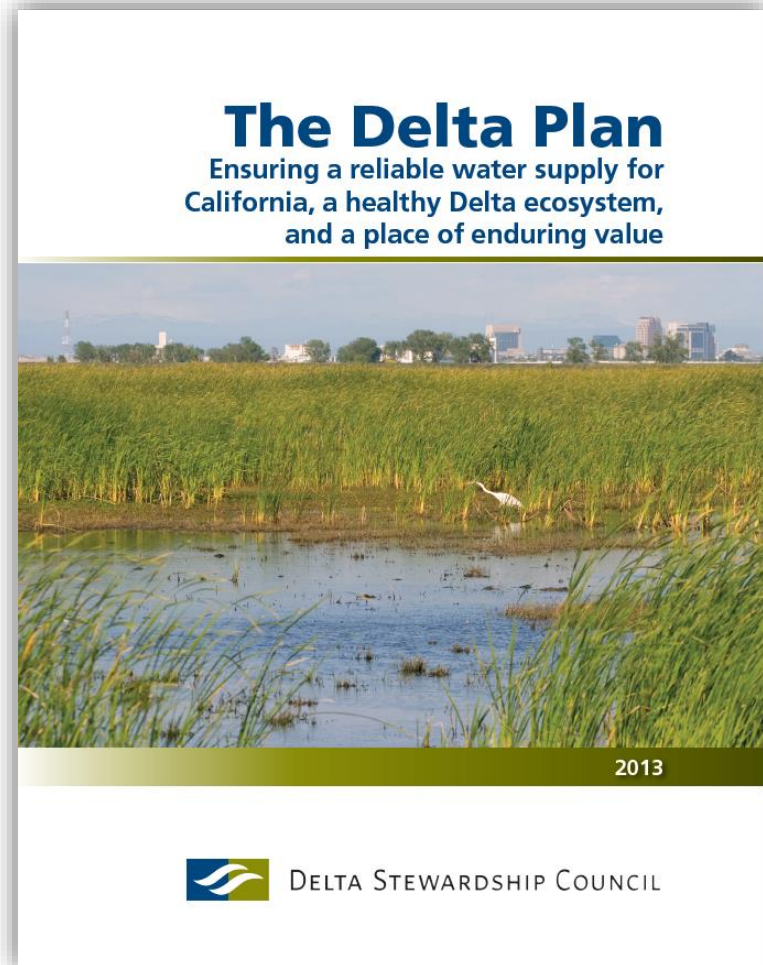
Agenda Item 3
May 23, 2019



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Today's Discussion

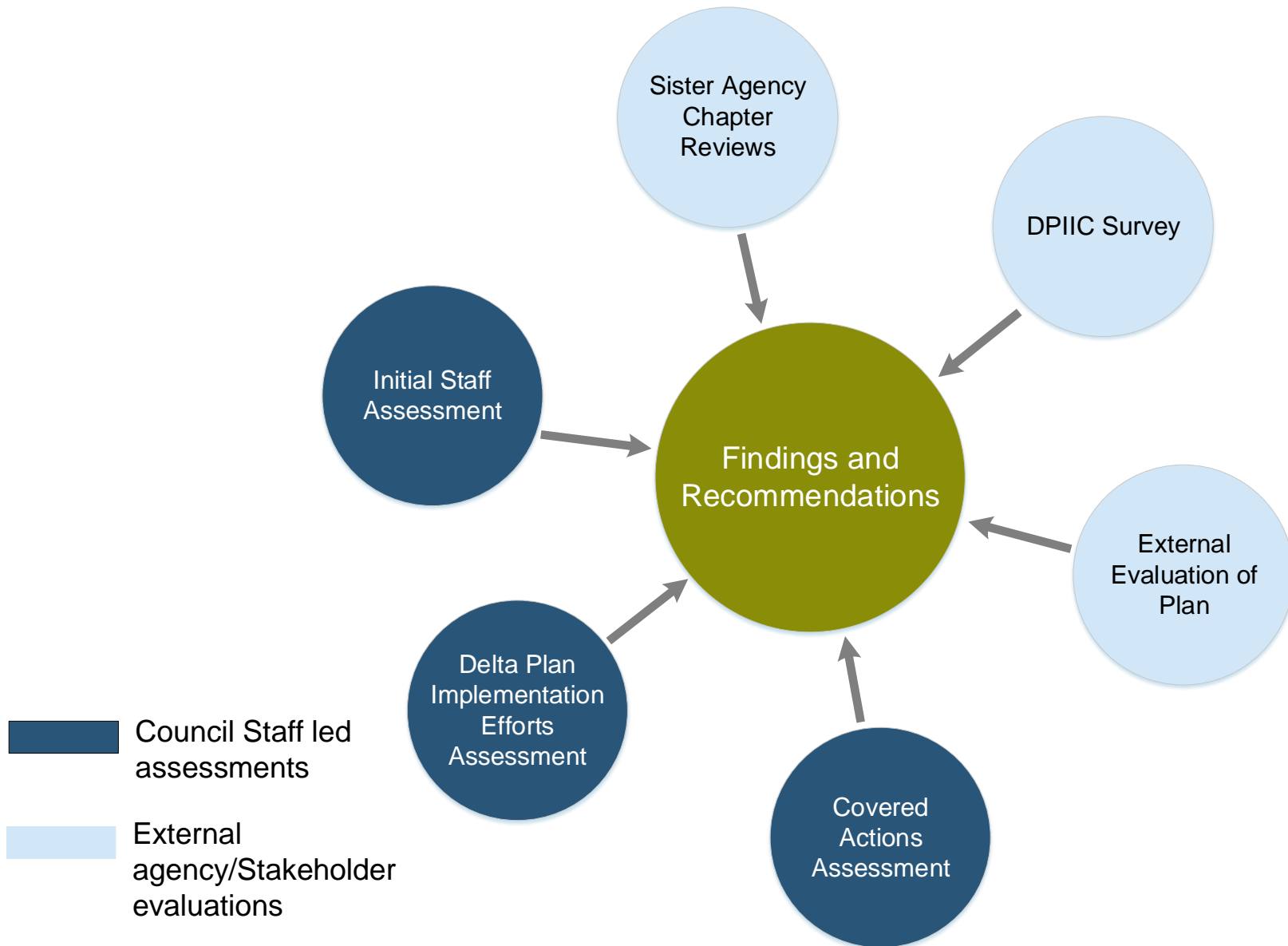
- Delta Plan Five-Year Review update
- Staff Findings and Recommendations
- Discussion and Council feedback



Five-Year Review Objectives

- Reflect on the successes and challenges of initial efforts across agencies to implement the Plan;
- Focus and prioritize the Council's near-term future efforts to implement the Plan;
- Identify planning topics and emerging issues that may inform future Plan updates

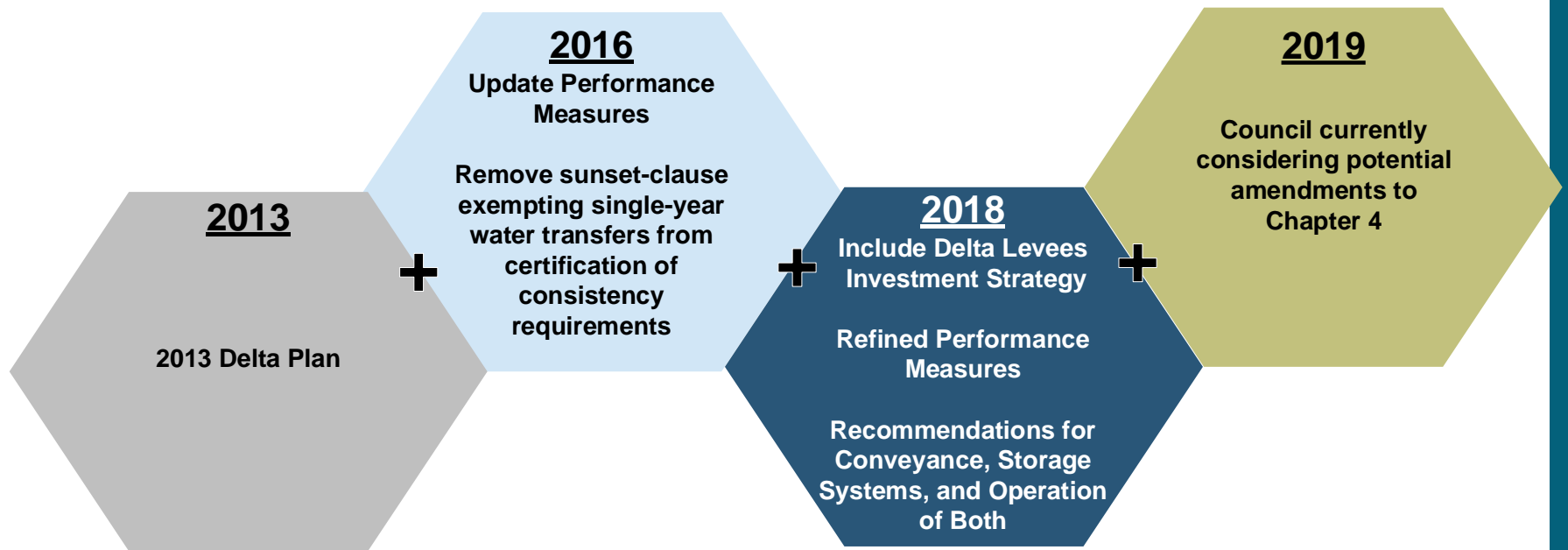
Five-Year Review Process



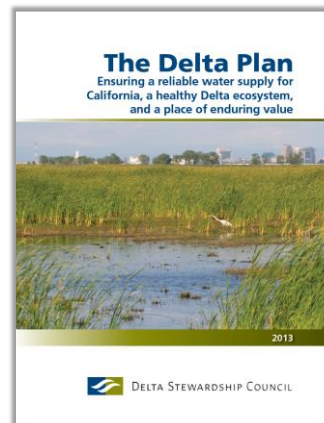
Five-Year Review Deliverables

- **Highlights Report** – identifies significant accomplishments for first 5 years and challenges for next 5-10 years
- **Recommendations Report** – describes results of Five-Year Review; identifies implementation focus

Delta Plan 2013-2019



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Staff Findings and Recommendations

Overall Finding

The Delta Plan is effective as a legally enforceable management plan for the Delta. While its accelerating implementation shows progress toward achieving the coequal goals, many challenges remain.



Overall Finding

- Implementation of more than 40 percent of the administrative actions
- DPIIC is functioning well as a State-federal coordinating body
- Contains core elements and the regulatory framework is strong to further coequal goals
- Confusion and misconceptions about the Plan and its contents remains a barrier



Overall Staff Conclusion

- The Delta Plan in its current form is effectively guiding the actions of local and state agencies
- Does not require immediate significant changes to ensure successful implementation
- Implementation activities should be focus of staff resources over the next five years
- A stable and consistent plan and regulatory framework supports sustained implementation
- Communication with partner agencies and stakeholders a focus of everything we do

Specific Findings and Recommendations

Strengthen Plan Implementation

1.1 Covered actions: *outreach and early consultation*

1.2 Covered actions: *administrative procedures*

1.3 Covered actions: *adaptive management*

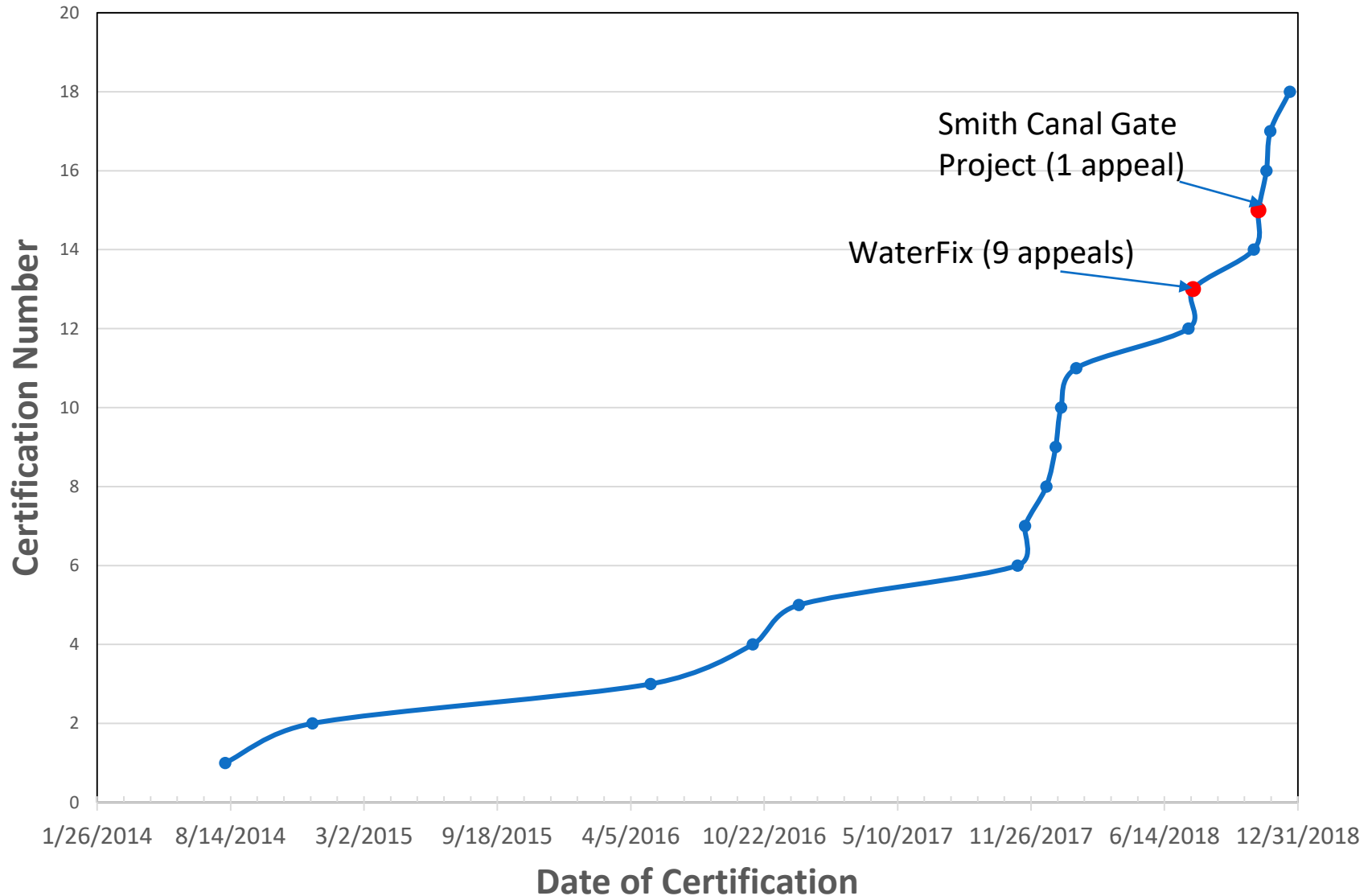
1.4 Covered actions: *best available science*

1.5 Performance measures: *Delta Plan recommendations implementation*

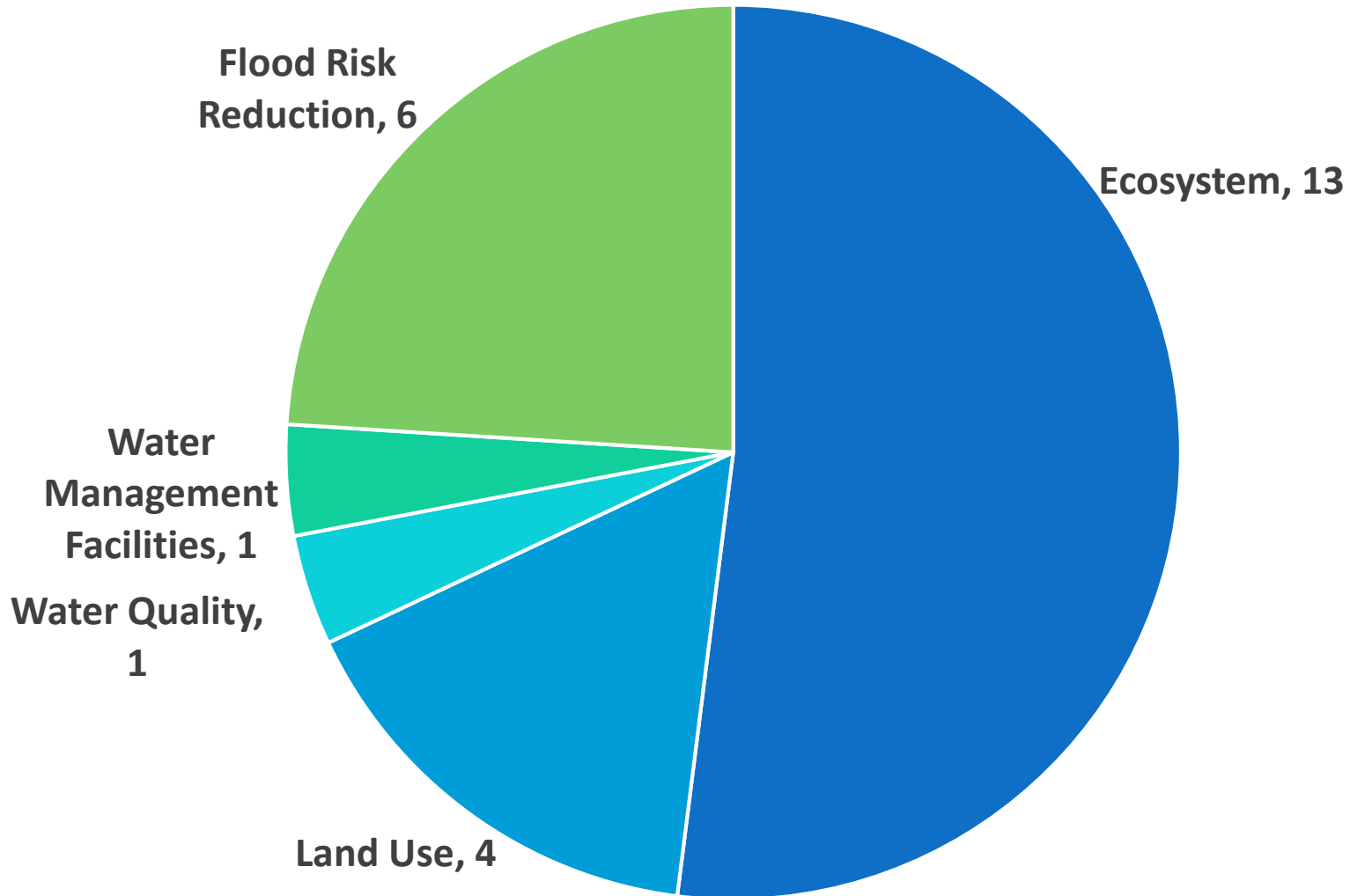
1.6 Performance measures: *tracking output/outcome performance measures*

1.7 Staff development and technological advancement

Covered Action Certifications



Project Type (Certifications)

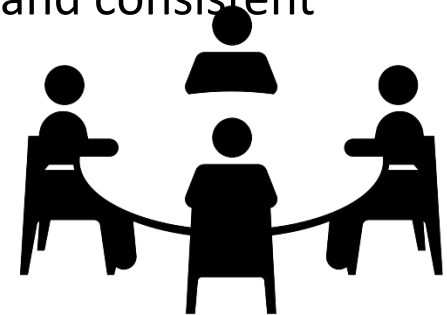


Covered Actions:

Outreach, Early Consultation, and Administrative Procedures

Finding:

- The Council's certification and appeals process is unique
- Some early project proponents resisted or misunderstood consistency requirements
- Council investments in outreach and early consultation show significant progress
- Council communication with the public and project proponents has improved but requires continual enhancement and consistent repetition

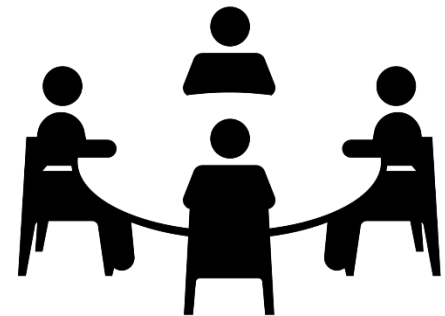


Covered Actions:

Outreach, Early Consultation, and Administrative Procedures

Recommendation:

- Review administrative procedures to identify what, if any, procedural changes may be warranted
- Expand use of Council meetings and reports to communicate upcoming and ongoing early consultations and certifications of consistency

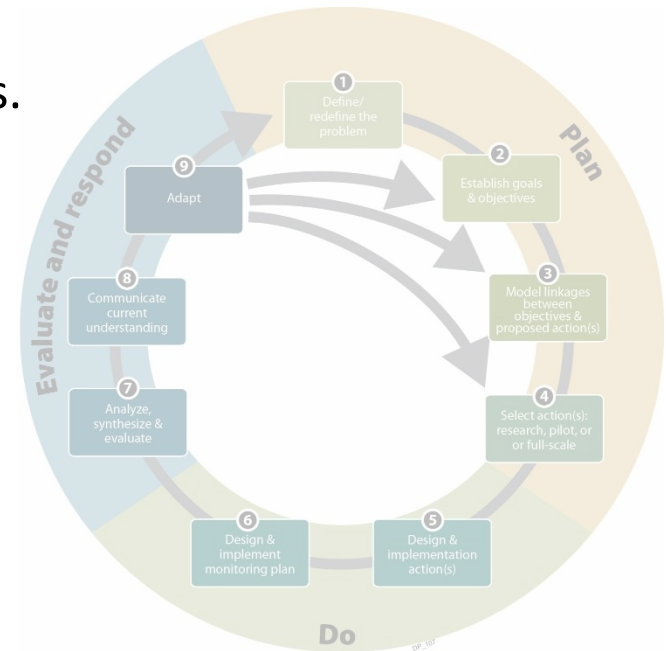


Covered Actions:

Adaptive Management and Best Available Science

Finding:

- Adaptive management and best available science are now widely used and understood terms
- The Delta Plan best available science policy relates to a broad range of project activities.



Covered Actions:

Adaptive Management and Best Available Science

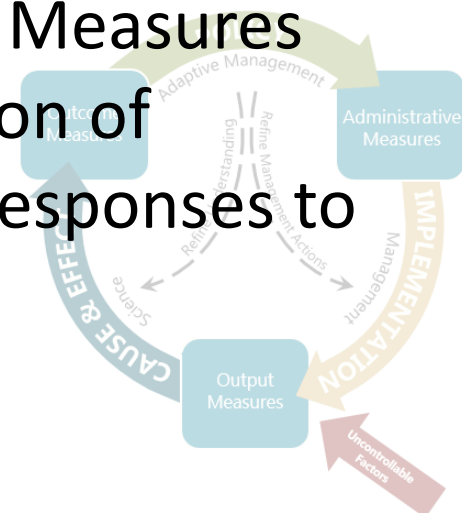
Recommendation:

- Collaborate with other agencies to advance the understanding and application of adaptive management
- Identify priority areas of interest for future Science Action Agendas and research funding

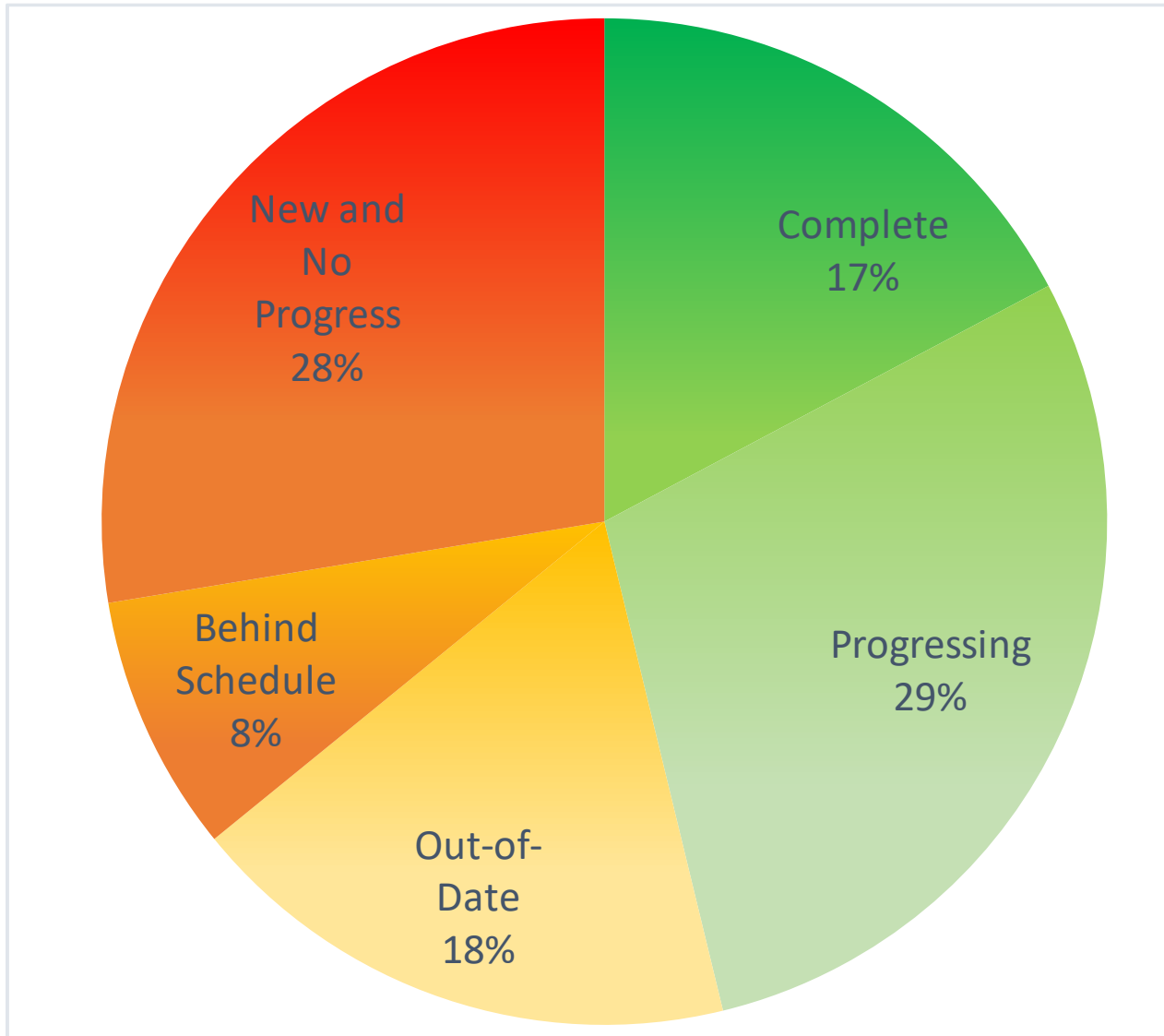


Performance Measures

- Used to measure implementation of the Delta Plan
- 145 **Administrative** Performance Measures track implementation of Delta Plan Recommendations and Policies
- 32 **Output/Outcome** Performance Measures track on-the-ground implementation of management actions and system responses to management actions



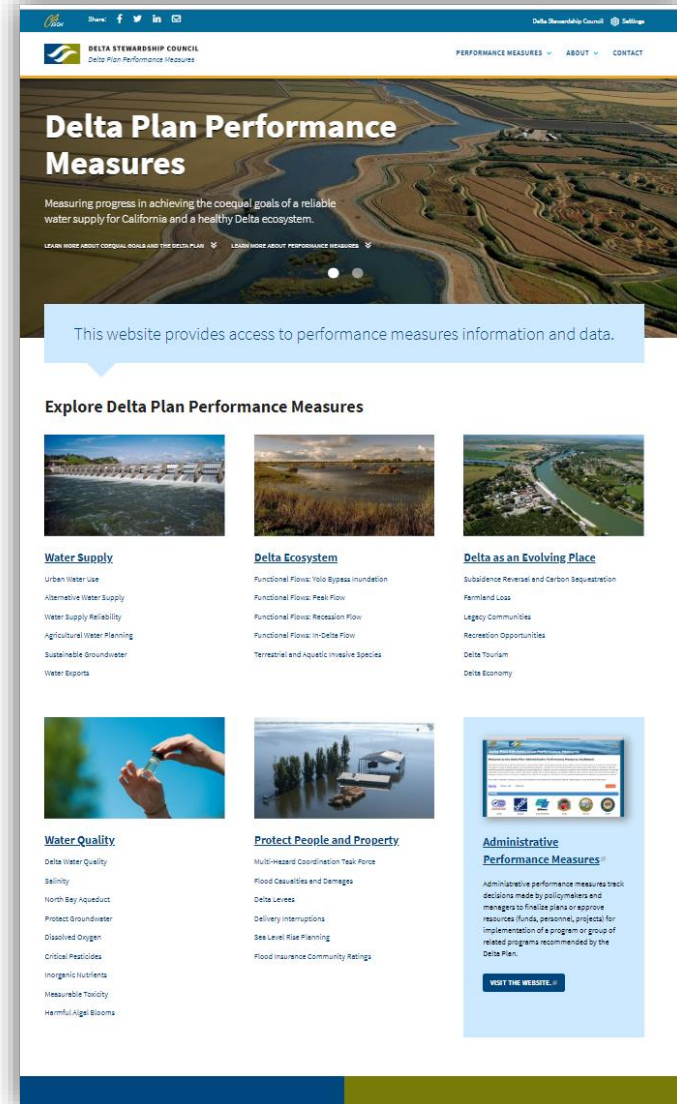
Administrative Performance Measures Status



Output/Outcome Performance Measures

Updated April 2018

Track 32 metrics to provide information on long-term performance and will inform future reviews



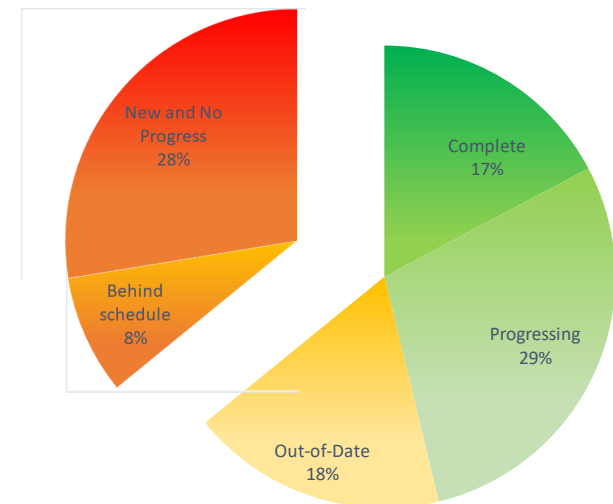
Performance Measures:

Delta Plan Recommendations Implementation

Finding:

Priority Delta Plan recommendations that warrant further attention and effort:

- ***Reduce reliance on the Delta and increase water use efficiency***
- ***Align state funding for Delta Plan implementation***
- ***Flood risk reduction and emergency response***
- ***Increased water storage and conveyance***
- ***Ecosystem restoration****

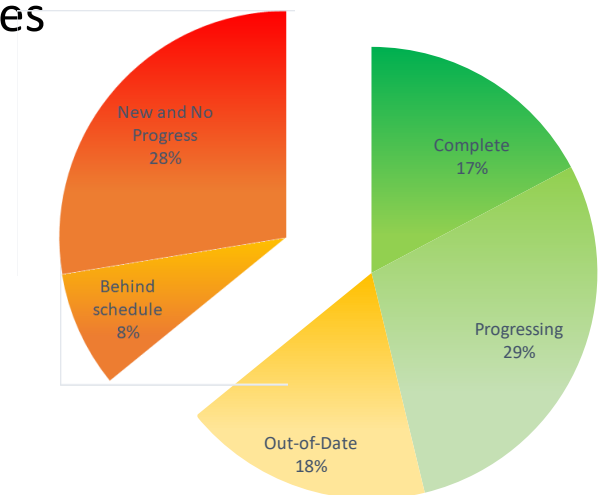


Performance Measures:

Delta Plan Recommendations Implementation

Recommendation:

- Develop specific strategies for engaging and collaborating with implementing agencies for priority recommendations
- Link DPIIC agenda items to Delta Plan implementation activities
- Establish specific schedules for status and progress updates
- Improve staff engagement with partner agencies and report progress regularly in Council meetings and other public forums



Staff Development and Technological Advancement

Finding:

- Technology increasingly drives best available science, adaptive management, policy decisions, and management actions
- Sophisticated deployment of new tools and analytical approaches benefit the Council's implementation efforts

Recommendation:

- Focus resources and efforts on the development of staff capacity, expertise, and IT infrastructure improvements
- Deploy new analytical tools

Planning Topics and Emerging Issues

2.1 Climate Change Risks to the Delta

2.2 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

2.3 Delta as an Evolving Place

2.4 Federal Coordination and Participation

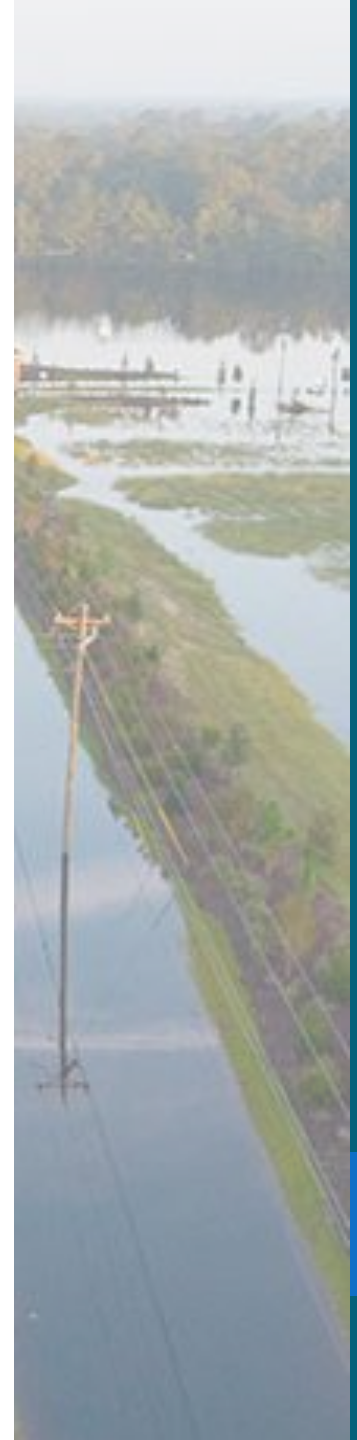
Climate Change Risks to the Delta

Finding:

- Nearly all stakeholders interviewed identified climate change as an issue of great importance
- Delta Plan considers climate change and sea level rise
- Additional steps may be needed to advance the coequal goals in the context of a changing climate

Recommendation:

- After completion of the climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy, evaluate potential for Delta Plan amendments to address climate change risks



Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

Finding:

- Emerged as a statewide priority
- Appellants raised environmental justice issues in the California WaterFix covered action appeals
- Delta Plan has a section dedicated to the human right to water and a suite of water quality actions

Recommendation:

- Prepare an issue paper summarizing best available science and identifying policy options related to environmental justice



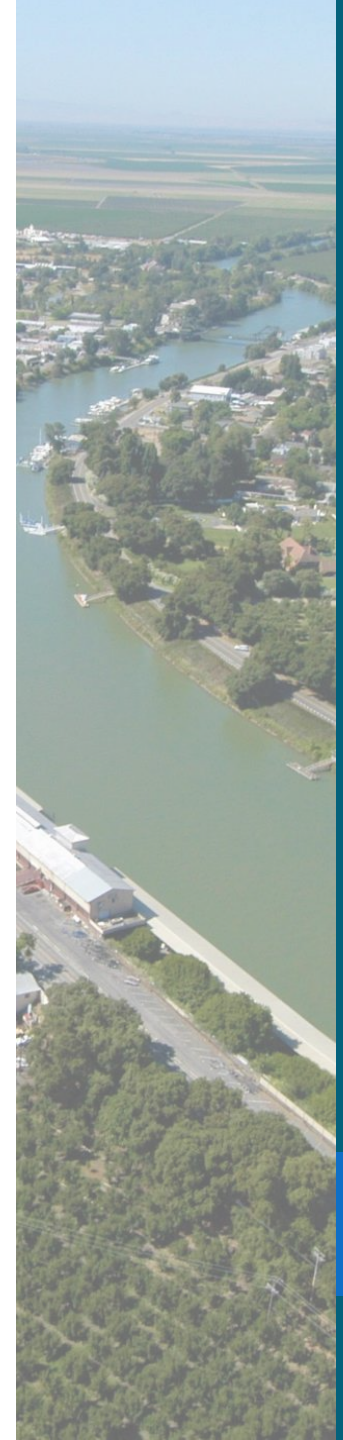
Delta as an Evolving Place

Finding:

- Key emerging Delta as and Evolving Place issues
 - Connections between existing agricultural practices, economic sustainability, development pressures and increasing risk
 - Cultural resources, tribal values, and ecocultural values
 - Improved and emerging social science research

Recommendation:

- Prepare an issue paper summarizing best available science and identifying policy options following completion of ongoing studies and efforts



Federal Coordination and Participation

Finding:

- Need for greater participation and involvement by federal agencies to implement the Delta Plan
- The Delta Reform Act called for the Delta Plan to be developed consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)
- With CZMA authority, the Council could have greater influence over federal actions that affect the Delta



2.4 Federal Coordination and Participation

Recommendation:

- Use DPIIC to improve federal participation in Delta Plan implementation and improve coordination
- Continue staff-to-staff coordination to build relationships and voluntary alignment with federal agencies
- Develop an issue paper that documents steps necessary to submit the Delta Plan to the Secretary of Commerce for inclusion in California's Coastal Zone Management Program
- Explore trade-offs of pursuing CZMA and additional potential strategies for improving federal participation in Delta Plan implementation



An underwater photograph showing several fish swimming in clear water. Bubbles are visible throughout the scene, particularly around the fish. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast image. The fish are of various species, including what appear to be salmon or trout.

Have we covered everything?

Are there areas of the Delta Plan review that we have not covered about which you would like additional information?